

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch**

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2002
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS - Soybean, light amber, \$1.30 - 1.44

CALIFORNIA

- Cotton/Alfalfa, extra light & light amber,
\$1.30 (30-60 payment)
- Cotton/Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.25 (small lot/45 day payment)
- Knapweed, extra light amber, \$1.37
- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.40 - 1.47
- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.40 - 1.47

FLORIDA

- Gallberry, white, \$1.40
- Gallberry, cut comb, extra light amber, \$1.50
- Mixed Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.45
- Mixed Wildflowers/Brazilian Pepper, extra light amber, \$1.35
- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.35 - 1.60
- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.55
- Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.50

MICHIGAN

- Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.60
- Floral Not Reported, extra light amber, \$1.55 - 1.57½
- Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.50

MINNESOTA - Floral Not Reported, white, \$1.60

MONTANA

- Alfalfa, white, \$1.54
- Alfalfa/Clover, white, \$1.54
- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.00
- Clover, light amber, \$1.00

NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.58 - 1.60
	- Clover, light amber, \$1.50
OREGON	- Mint, light amber, \$1.30
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.35
TEXAS	- Chinese Tallow, light amber, \$1.35
UTAH	- Clover, white, \$1.50
WASHINGTON	- Buckwheat, amber, \$1.35
	- Clover, extra light amber, \$1.40
	- Mint, dark amber, \$1.35
	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.41
	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.37
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.35 - 1.50

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

PROVINCE & COLOR NOT REPORTED - Canola, \$1.21 - 1.75

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....ARGENTINA	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.088
	extra light amber, \$1.134
WEST COAST.....MEXICO	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.36
	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.36
	- Mixed Flowers, amber, \$1.36
	- Floral Unknown, white, \$1.32
	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.53
VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.53

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) δδδ

Rain was the theme for November as the area received its share, although water tables continue to measure below normal levels. November temperatures were about average; however, temperatures for the final week of the month dropped to below normal levels (lows in the upper 10's and 20's). Beekeepers continue to provide supplemental feeding to the bees and hives have been prepared for the winter. Beekeepers will use this time to order supplies and check equipment. Commercial beekeepers have already moved hives to southern points.

CALIFORNIA δδδ

The first winter storm of the season moved across the state on the 13th & 14th. It brought widespread damage from high winds and heavy rains. The unsettled weather continued through the weekend adding to the significant rainfall that fell during the storm. Temperatures were fairly normal. During the next week, occasional rain showers were still reported along with snow in the mountains. Temperatures were as much as 10-14 degrees below normal during the week. Santa Ana winds began in Southern California the next week, bringing mostly dry and mild conditions but high temperatures reached into the 90's in the Southern Inland Valleys. At the same time, the Central Valley developed fog but little to no precipitation. Temperatures began to warm again the last of November with only scattered showers reported along the south coast and southeast interior.

Bees continue to be sitting in winter holding locations and are reported to be in good condition. Some producers have discovered they did not leave on as much honey for winter stores as in previous years and are now feeding. Occasional warm temperatures also allowed the bees to leave their hives for cleansing flights but since there is little to no food sources this time of year, they return hungry and eat their winter stores. A few colonies, that were showing signs of weakness, will be moved to the coast where it is warmer and acacia, eucalyptus, manzanita, mustard and fillary are blooming. Beekeepers are hoping for more rain so these plants will continue to bloom.

Honey packers report prices were beginning to drop slightly by the end of November but most bought inventories earlier and now have warehouse full of very expensive honey. A number of commercial users also cancelled orders when the price became so high. Packers were beginning to get calls from producers in Argentina that want to line up orders for February delivery.

Beekeeping supply companies reported an increase in the sale of supplementary feed. A few were also trading supplies for small lots of wax.

COLORADO δδδ

Most of the Northern mountains of the state have received snow showers throughout the month to relieve some the drought conditions that prevailed through the year. Some areas in the northern mountains received from 3 to 4 feet of snow during the month. Temperatures remained about normal with daytime highs in low to mid 40s and lows in the mid-teens to the lows 20s at night.

Most migratory beekeepers have their colonies in California and south Texas working winter crops. Honey production is expected to be from 50 to 60 percent of normal because severe drought conditions the state has experienced.

FLORIDA ddd

At the state level, very little is happening right now in regards to honey with no surplus production going on at all. In the southern part of the state, Spanish Needle and Melalucca varieties are being made. The price of honey is starting to go down as it was at it's highest in history in October of this year at \$1.45 and it is now at \$1.10 for amber or bakery grade honey. Speculation whether the price will go up or down is anybody's guess but it is his opinion that it will go up a little unless the Chinese get into full swing. There is currently quite a bit of Chinese honey sitting on U.S. docks that is being tested for Chlorophenachol. The results of such testing will not

be determined until around six weeks and if it is discovered that no Chlorophenachol is present, then the Chinese honey will be free to enter the United States causing the price to drop.

IDAHO δδδ

Slightly cooler November as the month ended 2 degrees below the normal average temperature. Precipitation of 0.88 inches was a quarter of an inch below normal with most of that (0.73 inches) falling on the 8th. That was a record precipitation amount as 0.73 broke the all time record for November 8th. The previous record was 0.24 inches set in 1949. Hives have all been put into holding areas until the big move to California.

Both wholesale and retail markets have seen an increase in movement, due to the holiday season.

ILLINOIS δδδ

Beekeepers reported their bees are in fairly good condition due in part to the weather during November. There were some days when the temperatures were cool and rainy as well as other days when temperatures were mild.

Some beekeepers reported the demand for honey remains moderate as prices during the month of November were generally unchanged.

INDIANA δδδ

Bees were reported to be in very good condition as most beekeepers kept a close watch on their colonies and as weather permitted, some supplemental feed was added along with mite treatments. Temperatures for the month of November were cool with moderate amounts of moisture.

Some beekeepers reported the demand for honey is moderate as prices were generally unchanged in November.

MISSOURI & IOWA δδδ

The November weather was slightly cooler than normal. Precipitation was less than normal for November. The week ending November 5th was wet and cool for both states; the week ending November 9th was wet and cool in Iowa and cool and dry in Missouri; the rest of November was generally dry for both states. There's good activity with the bees due to mild weather by the end of the month. Bees were able to have cleansing flights. Beekeepers in Missouri were working on completing harvest of the fall flow on bees that will not be treated for mites until next spring. The bees are currently plentiful and strong going into the winter months.

Some beekeepers have moved their bees to California for pollination. Some beekeepers, mainly from Iowa have moved to Texas because there are more working days for the bees.

Demand is strong for bulk honey for packing at higher prices than last year due to reduced yields in drought areas and extra inspections required on some imported honey. Extraction and packing was active to have supplies available for holiday orders.

MONTANA δδδ

Most of the state recorded temperatures above normal during November. Records were set in the southwest section of the state on November 20-22nd when highs of 72, 73 and 72 degrees were recorded. Thanksgiving day was also unseasonably warm in some areas of the southwest when daytime highs were over 60 degrees. Below normal precipitation caused further concern across the state as drought conditions continue. Less than an inch of rain fell during November in most areas with the southwest corner of the state being the driest. West Glacier did accumulate 2.42" of snow during the month but that is way below what they should have by this time of the year. Soil moisture continues to be 24% very short and 48% short.

The unseasonably warm temperatures caused problems for the bees wintered in the state as they took cleansing flights but found no food sources. Migratory beekeepers made at least one trip to their California holding yards during November to check on their bees.

NORTH CAROLINA δδδ

North Carolina has received some relief in some sections of the state from the continuing drought situation. Some reservoirs and stream levels were back to normal, however, the groundwater levels will take longer to regenerate. The Coastal Plains region received an excessive amount of rainfall which caused some delays in harvesting activities. The western part of the state remains abnormally dry to moderate. Areas of North Carolina continue to work on reducing water usage by 20 percent. Bees were generally in good condition throughout the state. Most colonies were getting supplemental feeding. Beekeepers continued to maintain their fall maintenance programs.

OREGON δδδ

Conditions were fairly normal across the state during November except many areas continue to be dry. Some snowfall fell at higher elevations but consistent, heavy precipitation will be needed this winter to reduce the efforts of irrigation reserves. In northwest Oregon, Astoria received measurable rainfall nearly every day during the week of the 10th totaling over 1.75". The rains were accompanied by wind gusts of 47-56 mph.

Bees are still sitting in winter holding yards where they were wrapped with tarpaper after medication and enough feed was added. Overall, the bees are reported to be in very condition but there were some losses of small colonies. Migratory beekeepers were getting calls from almond growers wanting to finalize pollination contracts. Pollination fees could be up this year as the prices of honey has some producers concentrating on honey production rather than pollination.

UTAH δδδ

The month was dominated by high pressure that left the state with less than half the normal precipitation. The dry air and stagnant pattern also resulted in overall colder than normal temperatures for the month. No strong winds were observed and the snowfall was only a trace, which is also below normal. Hives have all been put into holding areas until the big move to California.

Both wholesale and retail markets have seen an increase in movement, due to the holiday season.

WASHINGTON δδδ

On the 7th, Spokane set a record high of 58 degrees and Walla Walla hit a high of 66 degrees, just three days after daily-record lows of 11 degrees. The unseasonably warm conditions continued into the second week of November as Wenatchee reached 55 degrees. The mild weather remained through the end of the month with only light precipitation reported in Eastern Washington and most of Western Washington. The only area to receive over 4" of rain was along the northern coast.

The mild temperatures in Western Washington allowed the bees to take several cleansing flights during the month. Beekeepers are watching to make sure they have enough food as they consume more when they go out flying. There were some beekeepers getting their bees ready to take to California the first part of next year.

In Eastern Washington, the unusually mild weather also gave the bees plenty of opportunity to leave their hives for cleansing flights. Most bees are sitting in California holding yards where they are reported to be in good condition. Final reports from migratory beekeepers show they only made about 50% of a normal crop in North Dakota and very little in South Dakota because of the hot, dry summer.

WISCONSIN δδδ

Bees are reported to be in fairly good condition as they stayed close together in their hives to keep themselves warm. There was some supplemental feeding as well as treatments for mites, but for the most part, the bees seem to be strong enough to survive throughout the winter months. There was an average amount of moisture and a few days of below normal temperatures in November.

Demand for honey is moderate. Prices for honey were generally unchanged.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	<u>SEPTEMBER 2002</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
<i>HONEY, NATURAL, PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</i>				
Mexico	4,492	5,891	40,661	53,327
Bermuda	---	---	1,588	7,245
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,500	3,480
Barbados	---	---	1,090	2,875
N. Antilles	---	---	2,677	9,069
United Kingdom	---	---	18,659	42,250
Netherlands	---	---	1,843	9,202
Belgium	---	---	3,736	4,900
France	---	---	1,996	9,083
Germany	---	---	30,869	61,014
Kuwait	---	---	135,230	303,933
Saudi Arabia	26,499	69,690	161,299	339,587
Qatar	---	---	3,270	9,028
Arab Emirates	17,514	49,305	65,335	187,370
Yemen	---	---	120,675	295,500
Pakistan	---	---	16,850	16,652
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	2,733	8,214	151,214	318,124
China	---	---	13,791	35,307
Korean Republic	---	---	147,857	193,947
Hong Kong	1,270	3,640	1,270	3,640
Taiwan	---	---	5,269	10,059
Japan	12,856	38,910	98,877	243,852
TOTAL	65,364	175,650	1,032,941	2,172,130
<i>HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</i>				
Canada	40,108	89,235	449,237	946,264
Mexico	49,248	81,885	168,534	259,077
Costa Rica	---	---	17,145	36,018
Bermuda	---	---	2,022	6,080
Bahamas	---	---	939	2,707
Cayman	2,784	7,755	2,784	7,755
Aruba	---	---	1,000	3,375
Guadalupe	---	---	6,036	19,255
Sweden	---	---	20,376	35,276
United Kingdom	---	---	128,543	238,120
Ireland	---	---	287	3,138
France	---	---	2,407	2,968
Germany	---	---	7,768	10,246
Spain	---	---	1,996	5,808
Yemen	---	---	41,071	91,876
Pakistan	612	3,206	612	3,206
Thailand	---	---	16,329	37,440
Malaysia	---	---	32,658	74,880
Singapore	---	---	34,968	106,970
Indonesia	19,602	22,680	99,287	214,597
Philippines	---	---	39,935	80,935
China	---	---	169,063	180,460

EXPORTS continued

Korean Republic	---	---	16,597	60,055
Japan	---	---	56,438	111,929
Australia	---	---	13,426	30,000

TOTAL	112,354	204,761	1,330,658	2,577,168
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HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

Canada	2,359	6,548	68,663	114,662
Mexico	---	---	2,322	5,597
Germany	---	---	10,839	10,246
China	---	---	118,320	123,250
Japan	---	---	597	3,300

TOTAL	2,359	6,548	200,741	257,055
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U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	SEPTEMBER 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE						
Canada	2,093,677	6,080,289	6,119,032	10,268,190	21,271,511	21,425,952
Mexico	85,812	186,720	191,171	424,805	767,664	790,956
Chile	---	---	---	710,781	1,090,958	1,141,107
Brazil	---	---	---	324,810	443,901	474,191
Uruguay	---	---	---	19,722	34,908	58,208
Argentina	60,780	124,622	131,128	1,893,732	2,445,226	2,603,906
Denmark	---	---	---	26,794	61,349	65,392
United Kingdom	---	---	---	2,906	13,567	14,139
Germany	18,000	36,360	37,800	71,640	103,848	107,878
Czech Republic	---	---	---	35,511	53,637	57,374
Hungary	---	---	---	36,000	41,760	44,640
Poland	---	---	---	960	3,492	3,717
Ukraine	18,912	26,927	30,827	37,762	53,300	58,160
Italy	---	---	---	3,130	18,641	20,061
Romania	37,600	67,710	71,639	96,612	136,676	144,925
Turkey	36,900	67,085	70,335	36,900	67,085	70,335
India	94,050	149,475	158,475	679,818	918,834	1,005,140
Thailand	---	---	---	985,780	1,188,800	1,272,426
Vietnam	109,600	151,440	166,507	1,071,845	1,365,827	1,492,453
Malaysia	37,700	46,899	53,421	37,700	46,899	53,421
China, Mainland	45,087	65,965	72,301	1,695,176	1,801,578	1,963,082
Hong Kong	---	---	---	74,840	85,626	95,559
Australia	---	---	---	78,880	105,699	107,980
New Zealand	---	---	---	1,950	7,800	8,128
TOTAL	2,638,118	7,003,492	7,102,636	18,616,244	32,128,586	33,059,130

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	10,329	30,742	30,795	486,022	806,415	810,257
Mexico	74,263	196,733	197,303	927,007	1,579,537	1,639,471
Guatemala	---	---	---	20,100	24,657	26,733
Bahamas	---	---	---	9,802	16,799	17,338
Chile	---	---	---	541,055	803,472	834,418

IMPORTS continued...

Brazil	19,430	31,088	33,421	510,551	761,237	808,552
Uruguay	---	---	---	587,958	890,043	919,353
Argentina	---	---	---	140,215	170,456	180,405
Hungary	18,000	34,380	34,479	18,000	34,380	34,479
Ukraine	---	---	---	18,850	32,981	52,819
Spain	125,280	265,404	266,934	187,920	385,890	393,120
Greece	---	---	---	1,032	4,718	4,861
Turkey	93,000	190,650	190,652	93,000	190,650	190,652
India	60,000	111,112	115,418	180,752	286,363	297,175
Pakistan	---	---	---	19,000	25,213	27,713
Thailand	---	---	---	1,909,940	2,234,531	2,462,584
Vietnam	---	---	---	2,671,500	3,031,413	3,215,277
Malaysia	---	---	---	216,920	249,127	281,226
China	19,040	26,615	29,005	1,025,582	1,029,713	1,138,473
Australia	---	---	---	296,480	370,943	398,984
TOTAL	419,342	886,724	898,007	8,861,686	12,928,538	13,733,890

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	67,730	168,540	169,241	283,969	607,334	610,866
Mexico	96,300	186,877	190,691	5,459,826	8,224,073	8,558,021
Guatemala	---	---	---	129,120	204,573	216,317
Peru	---	---	---	116,676	166,552	175,998
Chile	36,124	68,442	71,294	1,309,628	1,899,388	2,009,886
Brazil	78,480	134,931	142,116	1,029,007	1,492,544	1,581,913
Uruguay	80,932	151,925	154,480	5,044,309	7,792,294	8,104,747
Argentina	20,220	35,587	36,062	351,981	486,901	513,066
United Kingdom	---	---	---	333	3,646	3,963
France	480	2,280	2,429	891	4,311	4,641
Germany	---	---	---	189,017	339,173	385,176
Hungary	24,837	60,723	65,823	59,151	122,002	129,751
Switzerland	---	---	---	75,400	117,975	121,078
Moldovia	37,558	71,892	77,849	37,558	71,892	77,849
Spain	---	---	---	20,880	36,122	36,822
Romania	---	---	---	21,370	26,884	27,141
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
Turkey	18,900	41,491	41,566	18,900	41,491	41,566
India	93,000	129,000	139,500	1,186,931	1,560,286	1,715,667
Burma	---	---	---	93,750	92,625	93,737
Thailand	---	---	---	1,494,768	1,780,391	1,862,169
Vietnam	656,000	919,738	1,001,699	9,359,145	11,714,568	12,722,774
Malaysia	---	---	---	591,600	696,043	758,073
China	59,160	72,228	78,293	4,268,262	4,103,336	4,434,789
Hong Kong	---	---	---	43,431	76,903	82,471
Taiwan	1,080	2,650	2,767	4,725	10,426	10,959
Australia	---	---	---	1,600,181	2,011,830	2,171,292
New Zealand	---	---	---	600	3,806	3,865
TOTAL	1,270,801	2,046,304	2,173,810	32,811,642	43,713,793	46,481,023

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	1,607	9,888	10,877	434,827	650,267	654,837
Mexico	243,542	555,589	562,609	1,450,303	2,665,003	2,727,043
Dom. Republic	10,368	20,700	21,575	66,366	85,040	89,387
Brazil	77,403	131,410	136,753	370,868	545,018	577,343
Argentina	---	---	---	168,665	189,361	200,030
United Kingdom	---	---	---	672	2,349	2,523

IMPORTS continued...

France	---	---	---	2,238	14,562	16,629
Germany	---	---	---	90,000	133,055	134,550
Australia	927	5,265	5,714	9,158	50,474	54,122
Switzerland	2,746	18,760	19,173	11,944	83,984	87,038
Poland	---	---	---	1,080	2,634	2,946
Italy	---	---	---	18,889	19,370	20,489
Greece	---	---	---	835	6,680	7,135
Turkey	---	---	---	578	3,960	5,099
Israel	860	3,227	3,727	860	3,227	3,727
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
Malaysia	---	---	---	98,600	113,681	122,809
China	---	---	---	59,160	49,298	56,903
Hong Kong	---	---	---	3,906	5,147	6,397
Taiwan	1,200	2,418	2,569	7,092	30,669	31,786
Australia	---	---	---	324,880	403,290	430,947
TOTAL	338,653	747,257	762,997	3,139,641	5,084,030	5,275,954

SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS BUREAU FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION